

Request for Qualifications

Middletown Gateway

Deadline: July 31, 2025*

CALL SUMMARY

Frederick Arts Council seeks qualifications from artists or artist teams to design a large-scale artwork to activate a Frederick County, MD "gateway" location in Middletown, MD. The maximum size of the gateway artwork should be approximately 15' in height with an 8' x 8' base.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The gateway artwork should be fairly large in size and visible to motorists as they are driving into town as the gateway is located along the roadway. The artwork is intended for permanence and therefore should be able to withstand outdoor elements.

Selected artists will be invited to submit artwork designs for the Middletown, MD gateway location.

QUALIFICATIONS

At this stage, we are requesting that interested applicants submit their CV, a letter of interest, examples of their past projects, and a link to their website or other portfolio platform.

BUDGET

The total budget for this artwork is not to exceed \$150,000.

Questions? Write to info@frederickartscouncil.org

ELEGIBILITY

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is open to professional artists or teams with experience in the design, fabrication, and installation of public art. The artist must demonstrate: a) a history of professional activity and achievement as a public artist; b) experience managing a project of this complexity including technical competence with fabrication and installation procedures; and c) the ability to procure and direct the work of subcontractors/consultants.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete Submissions must include the following:

1. Letter of Interest: A letter stating the artist's interest in the project;
2. Images: Artists may submit between 10-15 images maximum. Images should accurately represent the artwork size, including height, span, and ground clearance. The artist must include at least one image per listed project. Images submitted will only be used for evaluation purposes.
3. Image list & Description: For each artwork submitted, please provide a short description (up to 5 sentences) of the piece and any aspects of the work that may not be obvious in the images, or any other relevant information. Artists should provide an image list including the following for each artwork: • Title • Date of Completion • Medium (Please Be Specific) • Dimensions (Height, Width, Depth) • Project Budget and Actual Cost
4. Resume: A resume outlining the respondent's experience, the experience of key team members (if applicable) and a brief response to the qualification review criteria. The artist should also include a website or online portfolio link. This project's execution is dependent on securing full funding.

Apply via SlideRoom: <https://frederickartscouncil.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/72003>

LOCATION PHOTOS



ABOUT FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland, and boasts a rich historical tradition from the days of the Revolutionary War to the Civil War and beyond. Agriculture has been a key industry since its founding, but with the county's expansion and development as part of the wider DC Metro area, biomedical and technology industries are also driving a large and larger share of the economy. The arts, as well, are part of Frederick's tradition, from the earliest days of stonework, metalwork, glass and ceramics produced by artisans throughout the county. Today, Frederick benefits from robust community-driven investments in facilities like the Delaplaine Art Center, New Spire Stages, Sky Stage, and the Weinberg Center for the Arts, along with arts festivals and events nearly every week of the year.

These investments have, in turn, inspired numerous artists, collectives, galleries and community organizations, all of which have begun to make their mark. Not surprisingly, Frederick has become known as one of the nation's leading small cities for the arts. Public art has, in recent years, become a visible part of the story. Public art has been a feature of Frederick's signature public space, Carroll Creek Linear Park, from the creation of the Community Bridge and the inclusion of artistic elements in the design of the park. Since then, Frederick has added a number of beloved murals and sculptures, particularly in parks, streetscapes and libraries throughout the County. The latest additions to Frederick's public art collection include an award-winning outdoor amphitheater and public art installation called Sky Stage, as well as a mural of master jazz trumpeter and Frederick County native Lester Bowie.

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The Arts Council's vision is a Frederick where public art connects residents and visitors, expresses an authentic and unique sense of place, drives economic prosperity through creativity, and advances a culturally inclusive and empowered future. The Frederick

Arts Council does not discriminate against any person on the basis of any characteristic described in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act or on the basis of political opinion or affiliation in any of its policies, procedures or practices and prides itself on maintaining a facility that is accessible to all.